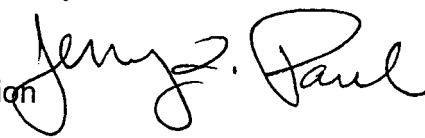




December 7, 1998

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Administrators of Nursing Homes, Day Care Facilities for Adults, Habilitation Centers for the Mentally Retarded or Persons with Related Conditions, and Community Residential Care Facilities

FROM: Jerry L. Paul, Director   
Health Licensing Section

SUBJECT: Conditions that will Allow a Provider-Wide Partial Exception to the Requirements of Regulations 61-13, 61-17, 61-75, and 61-84

Regulation 61-13, Standards for Licensing Habilitation Centers for the Mentally Retarded or Persons with Related Conditions Section N(6)(d)(2), and Regulation 61-17, Standards for Licensing Nursing Homes, Section K.(11)(d)(5), state that, "No live birds or animals shall be allowed in any food preparation, food storage or dining area." Similar requirements are located in Regulation 61-75, Standards for Licensing Day Care Facilities for Adults, Section G.6, which states "Management shall ensure that, if pets are kept in or outside the facility, only healthy animals are permitted, provided they are properly cared for, free of contagious disease or sickness, housed in clean facilities, and, if dogs or cats, have required rabies inoculations." In addition, in the community residential care facility (CRCF) setting under the authority of Regulation 61-84, Standards for Licensing Community Residential Care Facilities, Section 307 requires that, "Healthy animals which present no apparent threat to the health and safety of the residents shall be permitted provided they are properly housed, fed, and cared for, and provided they have the required inoculations."

It has been determined that an alternative standard to the "no birds or animals will be allowed in the dining area" requirement as found in Regulations 61-13 and 61-17 will be acceptable. Habilitation centers for the mentally retarded or persons with related conditions and nursing homes shall meet either the standards outlined in Regulation 61-13, Section N(6)(d)(2), and Regulation 61-17, Section K(11)(d)(5), respectively, or as an alternative:

Pets will be permitted in resident dining/activities areas only under the following conditions:

1. Pets will be allowed in these areas only during times when food is not being served.
2. If the dining/activities area is adjacent to a food preparation or storage area those areas must be effectively separated by walls and closed doors while pets are present.
3. All other requirements related to pets (e.g., pets shall be inoculated or vaccinated as required) must be followed.

In addition, day care facilities for adults and CRCF's may also allow pets in the participant/resident dining area if the standards in Regulation 61-75, Section G.6, and Regulation 61-84, Section 307, and the above conditions are met.

The standards in the regulations indicated above will be enforced during inspections, as required, either by the appropriate regulation or this provider-wide exception. This exception applies only to those types of facilities named above and relates solely to South Carolina licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this exception may result in revocation of the exception by the Department.

If there are any questions, please call Dennis Gibbs at (803) 737-7370.

JLP:DLG:dg

cc: Douglas E. Bryant, Commissioner  
Alice Truluck,  
Karen Price, Certification Branch  
Robert F. Bowles, SCNHA  
Paul Jeter, SCADSA

Bill Trawick, SCANPHA  
J. Randall Lee, SCHCA  
Vicki Rinere, SCDMH  
Christy Buchanan, SCARCH  
Brad Beasley, SCDDSN